

In The Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): In a microscope stand of a type having an electrically powered element and a power inlet connected to said element, said power inlet rated to provide a voltage, the improvement comprising:

an auxiliary power outlet connected to said power inlet; said auxiliary power outlet rated to provide a voltage identical to said power inlet and operatively arranged for receiving a power cord of an electrically powered auxiliary device associated with said microscope stand.

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Claim 2 (Original): The improvement according to claim 1, wherein said power inlet of said microscope stand and said auxiliary power outlet are formed according to a common standard chosen from a plurality standards in use throughout the world.

Claim 3 (Original): The improvement according to claim 1, further comprising a cover installed to prevent access to said auxiliary power outlet, wherein said cover is adapted to be removable by a service technician but not by an end user.

Claim 4 (Original). The improvement according to claim 1, wherein said electrically powered element is an illumination source.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A microscope stand of a type having an electrically powered element and a power inlet rated to provide a voltage and connected to said element, said microscope stand comprising:

an auxiliary power outlet connected to said power inlet for receiving a power cord of an electrically powered auxiliary device, said power inlet, said power cord and said power outlet rated to provide an identical voltage and adapted for accepting a standard International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) electrical connector.

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Claim 6 (previously added): The microscope stand of Claim 5 wherein said power inlet and said power outlet are operatively arranged on an outer surface of said microscope stand.

Claim 7 (currently amended): In a desktop microscope stand of a type having an electrically powered element and a power inlet rated to provide a voltage and connected to said element, said desktop microscope stand comprising:

an auxiliary power outlet rated to provide a voltage identical to said power inlet and connected to said power inlet, said auxiliary power outlet operatively arranged for receiving a power cord of an electrically powered auxiliary device, said power inlet and said power outlet operatively arranged on an outer surface of said desktop microscope stand.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The desktop microscope stand of Claim 7 wherein said power inlet, said power cord and said power outlet are adapted for accepting a standard International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) electrical connector.

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Claim 10 (new): The desktop microscope stand of Claim 8 wherein said power inlet comprises a male plug portion for accepting a first female outlet of said power cord and said auxiliary power outlet comprises a second female outlet for accepting a male plug portion of a power cord of an auxiliary device therein.